

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for managing wireless access to a network,
comprising:

- providing wireless communication in a network;
- providing a firewall protection between said network and
a wireless access device;
- submitting an identification code to said network from
said wireless access device;
- determining the validity of said identification code;
- granting wireless network access to said wireless
access device when said identification code is valid;
- denying wireless network access to said wireless access
device when said identification code is not valid; and
- issuing an alert when said identification code is not
valid.

2. The method described in Claim 1, wherein said providing said
wireless communication is accomplished with an intelligent
concentrator enabled for wireless communication.

3. The method described in Claim 2, wherein said providing said wireless communication is accomplished in circuitry resident in said intelligent concentrator.

4. The method described in Claim 1, wherein said identification code is the media access control number of said wireless access device.

5. The method described in Claim 1, wherein said determining said validity of said identification code is accomplished by reference to a list of valid identification codes.

6. The method described in Claim 5, wherein said list of valid identification codes is resident in said intelligent concentrator.

7. The method described in Claim 5, wherein said list of valid identification codes is resident in a server in said network.

8. The method described in Claim 1, wherein said denying said wireless access to said network is accomplished simultaneously with granting access to wireless access devices with valid identification codes.

9. The method described in Claim 1, wherein said network is a wireless personal area network.

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14. The computer network described in Claim 10, wherein said wireless access device is a wirelessly enabled personal data assistant.

15. The computer network described in Claim 10, wherein said wireless access device is a wireless telephone enabled for data communication.

16. The computer network described in Claim 10, wherein said wireless access device is a wirelessly enabled computer peripheral device.

17. The computer network described in Claim 10, wherein said firewall is a distributed firewall and is resident in said intelligent concentrator.

18. The computer network described in Claim 17, wherein said distributed firewall is enabled to obtain a list of valid identification codes from said server.

19. The network described in Claim 18, wherein said distributed firewall is enabled to verify the validity of said identification code submitted from a wireless access device.

20. An intelligent concentrator, comprising:

a housing;

a cable connector coupled to said housing and adapted to communicatively couple said intelligent concentrator to a network data cable;

electronic circuitry mounted in said housing enabled to wirelessly communicate with a wireless access device and a network; and

a distributed firewall resident in said electronic circuitry wherein said firewall is enabled to control the access to said network of said wireless access device.

21. The intelligent concentrator described in Claim 20, wherein said intelligent concentrator is enabled as a hub of a personal area network.

22. The intelligent concentrator described in Claim 20, wherein said distributed firewall is enabled to obtain a list of valid identification codes from a server in said network.

23. The intelligent concentrator described in Claim 20, wherein said distributed firewall is enabled to verify validity of an identification code submitted by a wireless access device.

24. The intelligent concentrator described in Claim 20, wherein said distributed firewall is enabled to deny access to said wireless access device if said identification code is not valid.

25. The intelligent concentrator described in Claim 20, wherein said distributed firewall is enabled to issue an alarm to a network manager if said identification code is not valid.

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